

Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior

§ 879.15

and necessary element of an economically feasible plan or project to construct or rehabilitate housing which meets the specific requirements in section 407(h) of SMCRA.

(d) Land or interests in land needed to fill voids, seal abandoned tunnels, shafts, and entryways or reclaim surface impacts of underground or surface mines may be acquired by the OSM, State, or Indian tribe if OSM finds that acquisition is necessary under part 875 of this chapter.

(e) The OSM, State, or Indian tribe which acquires land under this part shall acquire only such interests in the land as are necessary for the reclamation work planned or the postreclamation use of the land. Interests in improvements on the land, mineral rights, or associated water rights may be acquired if—

(1) The customary practices and laws of the State in which the land is located will not allow severance of such interests from the surface estate; or

(2) Such interests are necessary for the reclamation work planned or for the postreclamation use of the land; and

(3) Adequate written assurances cannot be obtained from the owner of the severed interest that future use will not be in conflict with the reclamation to be accomplished.

[47 FR 28597, June 30, 1982, as amended at 73 FR 67641, Nov. 14, 2008]

§ 879.12 Procedures for acquisition.

(a) An appraisal of all land or interest in land to be acquired shall be obtained by the OSM, State, or Indian tribe. The appraisal shall state the fair market value of the land as adversely affected by past mining.

(b) When practical, acquisition shall be by purchase from a willing seller. The amount paid for land or interests in land acquired shall reflect the fair market value of the land or interests in land as adversely affected by past mining.

(c) When necessary, land or interests in land may be acquired by condemnation. Condemnation procedures shall not be started until all reasonable efforts have been made to purchase the land or interests in lands from a willing seller.

(d) The OSM, State, or Indian tribe which acquires land under this part shall comply, at a minimum, with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. 4601, *et seq.*, and 41 CFR part 114-50.

§ 879.13 Acceptance of gifts of land.

(a) The OSM, State, or Indian tribe under an approved reclamation plan may accept donations of title to land or interests in land if the land proposed for donation meets the requirements set out in § 879.11.

(b) Offers to make a gift of land or interest in land to the U.S. Government shall be in writing and comply with U.S. Department of the Interior regulations for land donations. The States and Indian tribes may use procedures provided by applicable State or Indian tribal law.

§ 879.14 Management of acquired land.

Land acquired under this part may be used for any lawful purpose that is consistent with the necessary reclamation activities. Procedures for collection of user charges or the waiver of such charges by the OSM, State, or Indian tribe shall provide that all user fees collected shall be deposited in the appropriate Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

§ 879.15 Disposition of reclaimed land.

(a) Prior to the disposition of any land acquired under this part, OSM, State, or Indian tribe shall publish a notice of proposed land disposition, hold public hearings, if required, and make written findings in accordance with the authority contained in section 407(g)(2) of the Act.

(b) OSM may transfer administrative responsibility for land acquired by OSM to any Federal Department or Agency, with or without cost to that Department or Agency. OSM may transfer title for land acquired by OSM to any State or Indian tribe or to any agency or political subdivision of a State or Indian tribe, with or without cost to that entity, for the purposes set out in paragraphs (e) or (f) of this section. The agreement under which a transfer is made shall specify—